

Weekly Column for December 1, 2005

This Sunday is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Victorian Stroll. Has there ever been a more predictable topic on the weekly column than this? But that's okay, because the Victorian Stroll is not only worth writing about, it's worth planning your weekend around.

For the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, Troy will be transformed back into Victorian Area Sunday as our downtown streets come alive for this wonderful holiday tradition. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, the entire family can enjoy shopping at our wonderful boutiques, eating at our eclectic restaurants, and enjoying the first real event of the holiday season.

And best of all, it's free.

Earlier this week, we had an exciting kickoff at the HSBC Bank on Broadway, where the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce unveiled the official poster of the Stroll, the Stamp from the Troy Post Office, and the list of events for the Stroll '05.

As for the weather this year, there does not appear to be a major snowstorm in our path, which is always wonderful to see. While the white stuff certainly bumps up the holiday cheer for many, it is a little bit of a pain in the neck to clean up at the last minute. But the feel of winter will certainly be in there, as temperatures will be in the low 30's.

Much like last year, I simply cannot stress enough how important this event is for the City of Troy and its downtown merchants. Not only is the Stroll the unofficial kickoff to our holiday shopping season, but it is also one of the major opportunities we have to showcase Troy to the thousands of people that will make their way downtown on Sunday.

In the past two years, we have made great strides in the promotion of our City. Whether its through increased events or simply working together in a close manner, more and more people are seeing downtown Troy for the gem that it is.

This year, friends and family of those attending the Stroll will be in Troy for the first time, or perhaps returning after a few decades of not being here. This event is our chance to show what we have. And I believe we will do a great job.

So please, come downtown on Sunday afternoon and take a trip back into the Victorian Era. You will not regret it.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy